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Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District of Stratton for the year ending 31st December, 1939.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area. 56,285 acres.

Estimated Population 4,510

Inhabited Houses 1,436

Rateable Value £11,255

Penny Rate Produces £53 1s. 0d.

Physical and General Character. Agricultural.

Vital Statistics.

Total number of Deaths, 46. Males 21, Females 25.
Rate per 1,000, 10.199

Total number of Births, 58. Males 35, Females 23.
Rate per 1,000, 12.86

Natural Increase, 12.

Deaths from puerperal causes, Nil.

Deaths from Cancer, 7.

Deaths from Measles, Whooping Cough and Diptheria, Nil.

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

1. (1) One part time Medical Officer of Health.
One whole time Sanitary Inspector.

(2) a. Laboratory Facilities. None in the District.

b. Ambulance Facilities. Ambulance provided and maintained by the Urban and Rural District Councils jointly. Adequately provides for the needs of the District.

c. Nursing in the Home. Provided by the Local Nursing Association.

d. Treatment Centres and Clinics. Situated at Launceston and Bude.

e. Hospitals. Cottage Hospital situated at Stratton contains 18 Beds and is supported by voluntary subscriptions and payments from Patients.

Isolation Hospital containing 14 Beds is maintained jointly by the Urban and Rural District Councils.

2. Maternity and Child Welfare.

(1) Midwives resident in the District.
Child Welfare Clinic held at Bude.

(2) Institutional Provision for Mothers and Children at Launceston.

(3) Health Visitors. Nil.

(4) Child Life Protection. Nil.

(5) Dental, Orthopaedic, etc. Cases. Schools inspected by Doctors. Orthopaedic Cases attend Clinic at Launceston.

3. Nursing Homes. None in the District.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. (1) Water. The village of Marhamchurch, and Widemouth in the Parish of Poundstock, are supplied by the Bude-Stratton Urban District Main Supply. With the above exceptions the water supply throughout the district is derived from wells and springs, which are in general privately owned.

As a result of the present state of national emergency, the execution of the proposed Water Supply Scheme at Kilkhampton has been delayed. It is to be hoped, however, that the difficulties which have arisen will shortly be overcome and that the supply from the existing borehole will soon be laid on to this village.

Similar reasons are responsible for the suspension of the negotiations taking place between the Council and the War Office in regard to supplying the hamlet of Woodford, in the Parish of Morwenstow, with water from the existing supply to the Cleave Anti-Aircraft Camp. The Council propose to keep the water supply situation at this hamlet under careful observation, and in the event of serious shortage, the necessary emergency measures will be taken.

Generally, no serious shortage of water has occurred during the year.

(2) Drainage and Sewerage. The larger villages are partially sewered and a number of houses are drained into septic tanks and cesspits.

During the year a Building Estate, comprised of some 60 sites, has been laid out at Widemouth Bay under a private Development Scheme. The Company concerned have laid down the necessary estate sewers and constructed temporary Outfall Works on their own land. The Council's approval of this Scheme was conditional; the company being required to enter into an undertaking to share in the cost of a Main Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme which has now become necessary for the Widemouth Area. This Scheme would provide for the linking up of the two existing sewerage systems, for which the Council are responsible, with the system laid down by the Company and the discharging of the whole of the sewage from this area through a main sea outfall.

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The Council's Engineers were engaged on the preparation of this scheme before the outbreak of the present war and the suspension of such schemes involving capital expenditure in accordance with the Government's policy. It is to be hoped, however, that the execution of this very necessary scheme will not be unduly delayed.

No other Sewerage works, apart from the works arising in the course of the maintenance of existing systems, have been executed.

2. Rivers and Streams. No serious cases of pollution have occurred.

3. (1) Closet Accommodation. With the exception of the more recently developed coastal areas, the closet accommodation throughout the District is generally on the Conservancy System. As can be seen from the statistics given later in this report an increasing number of conversions to the Water Carriage System is taking place each year.

(2) Public Conveniences. During the year Public Conveniences have been erected by the Council at Crackington Haven at a total cost of about £400. A much needed improvement in this area has thus been effected.

(3) Public Cleansing. Refuse Collection at Widemouth Bay is undertaken by the Council and during the year a similar scheme has been introduced at Crackington Haven and other parts of the parish of St. Gennys.

Refuse Dumps are provided and maintained by the Council in most of the remaining parishes.

(4) Shops and Offices. The shops in the District are very small and no action has been necessary.

(5) Camping Sites. The Camping sites are well conducted and no complaints in connection with the same have been received.

Number of sites in respect of which licences have been issued under Section 269 of the Public Health Act 1936 5

(6) Smoke Abatement. No action necessary.

(7) Swimming Baths and Pools. There are no such baths in the area. Sea bathing takes place along the Coast.

(8) Eradication of Bed Bugs. No action has been necessary.

(9) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Total number of inspections made for all purposes	881
New private water supplies provided.....	6
No. of samples of water analysed..... Satisfactory 4. Unsatisfactory 2.	6
Existing water supplies improved.....	7
Pail or Privy Closets converted to Water Closets.....	14
New drains laid to existing houses.....	21
Existing drains repaired.....	7
Complaints received	19
Nuisances abated.....	15
Cowsheds and Dairies inspected.....	84

No. of inspections of Bakehouses..... 9
No. of inspections of Camping Sites..... 18
Premises fumigated..... 4
No. of inspections of Schools..... 10

Housing Statistics:-
Number of New Houses 20
By the Local Authority..... Nil
By other Persons..... 20

SECTION D.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :-

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)..... 66

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose..... 192

(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1)) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925..... 36

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 76

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation..... Nil

(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation..... 46

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice :-

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers..... 38

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :-

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs..... Nil

(2) Number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice
(a) by Owners..... Nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners..... Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied..... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :-
(a) by Owners..... Nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners :..... Nil.

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made..... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders..... Nil

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made..... Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit..... Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding :-

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 5
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein..... 5
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein..... 27

(b) Number of new cases reported during the year..... Nil

(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year..... Nil
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases..... Nil

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding..... Nil

(e) Any other conditions with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report..... Nil

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply. It is apparent from the inspections of the Cowsheds and Dairies made during the year, that the steady improvement in the methods of clean milk production is being well maintained. Efforts to further stimulate interest in this matter have been made by pointing out to Milk Producers the advantages which accrue to them in the production of Accredited Milk. The co-operation of the Cornwall County Council has been readily given and in several cases the County Dairy Organiser and the Sanitary Inspector have made joint visits to Farms and explained the conditions attached to a Licence to produce Accredited Milk.

(b) Meat and other Foods.

Number of Private Slaughter Houses :-

Registered 3. Licensed 8.

Carcases inspected and condemned.

	Bovines.	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs.
Number inspected.....	215	230	435
All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole Carcases condemned..	-	2	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.....	13	11	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.....	6.0	5.7	.2
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcases condemned.	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.....	3	-	15
Percentage of number affected with Tuberculosis.....	1.4	-	3.5

Bakehouses are periodically inspected and are well kept and clean.

(c) Adulteration, etc. No action required.

(d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food. No Laboratories in the District. No action has been required.

(e) Nutrition. No action taken

(f) Shell-Fish. No beds in the District.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

An Isolation Hospital is provided which meets the requirements of the District.

A very small number of Infectious Diseases has been reported during the year, namely :-

Scarlet Fever	2
Diptheria	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	Nil
Tuberculosis	3

T. A. KING,

M.O.H.